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Grizzlies add Rick Johnson to football staff

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GRIZZLIES ADD RICK JOHNSON
TO FOOTBALL STAFF

MISSOULA--

Rick Johnson, 34, has been named an assistant football coach at the University of Montana. The announcement was made by head Grizzly coach Larry Donovan and University officials.

Johnson has 12 years of coaching experience, beginning at his alma mater, United States International University, in San Diego, Calif., in 1967.

It was there that he experienced a lot of athletic success as a defensive back. He was an honorable mention NAIA All-American, All-Coast and All-District player. He holds the school interception record (23), and picked off five passes in one game.

His most recent assignment was as a part-time coach for the Montana State University Bobcats, where he coached the defensive ends. He was at MSU one year.

Before joining the MSU program he was at Bonita Vista High School (San Diego), where he was a defensive coordinator. He was there from 1976-79, and his defensive unit led the league twice in that span.

He has also been at Reton High School (New Mexico), where he was head coach (1973-75), and University of New Mexico (part time), where he coached the defensive backs from 1969-72. Prior to that he coached at USIU.

Johnson said, "Larry Donovan is a very exciting person to be around, and that excitement rubs off on everyone around him. I'm excited at coming in on the ground floor of the Grizzly program. It has all the ingredients for success."

Johnson is originally from Seattle, Wash. He played high school football in San Diego, freshman football at the University of Washington, and then transferred to USIU, where he graduated in 1967.

He is single.

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